

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6664

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1279

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN DEPUTY SEEKS SEC CONSULTATION

REF: STATE 063165

1. RAFAEL VALLADARES, AN OPPOSITION DEPUTY IN THE COSTA RICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WHO THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL WROTE THE ONE-MAN MINORITY REPORT LAST MAY CRITICIZING ROBERT VESCO'S PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES IN COSTA RICA, IS CURRENTLY TRAVELLING IN EUROPE TO PROBE INTO THE BACKGROUND OF THE VESCO/MCALPIN AFFAIRS. HIS LAWYER APPROACHED THE EMBASSY APRIL 2 ON VALLADARES' BEHALF TO REQUEST SOME TIME WITH SEC OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON FOR A BRIEFING ON BOTH VESCO'S AND MCALPIN'S ENTERPRISES AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR ACTIVITIES IN COSTA RICA. ACCORDING TO THE LAWYER, WHO INCIDENTALLY IS RETAINED BY THE GERMAN SHAREHOLDERS ASSOCIATION SEEKING LEGAL REDRESS AGAINST MCALPIN, VALLADARES' TRIP IS BEING PAID BY THE LEGISLATURE, BUT HIS LIVING EXPENSES ARE COMING OUT OF HIS OWN POCKET.

2. THE LAWYER SAYS THAT VALLADARES' PURPOSE IN MAKING THIS TRIP IS TO COLLECT INFORMATION FOR A REPORT ON VESCO'S AND MCALPIN'S RELATIONS WITH HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT, AND TO PUBLISH IT BEFORE HIS TERM EXPIRES ON APRIL 31, WHEREUPON HE LOSES HIS LEGISLATIVE IMMUNITY.

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3. THE LAWYER EXPECTS VALLADARES WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 10 OR 11. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT APPROPRIATE SEC OFFICIALS MEET WITH VALLADARES AND PROVIDE A STRAIGHT BRIEFING. FOR THE RECORD, VALLADARES IS BEING ASKED TO CABLE THE SEC REQUESTING AN INTERVIEW ON THIS MATTER. HE DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. ARRIVAL DETAILS WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

4. THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT VALLADARES' PROBE IS THE SAME AS REFERRED TO IN REFTL. IF SO, THERE EITHER WAS SOME MISREPRESENTATION INVOLVED ON THE DEPUTY'S PART OR MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE GUARDS' PART. ODUBER, WHO IS POLITICALLY CLOSE TO VALLADARES' MENTOR, MARIO ECHANDI, MAY BE BEHIND THE WHOLE THING, BUT EMBASSY PREFERS NOT TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH ODUBER UNTIL DEPARTMENT OR SEC HAS CHANCE TO SOUND OUT VALLADARES DISCREETLY AS TO WHETHER HE MAY HAVE APPROACHED IOS HEADQUARTERS.
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